Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY ARA/ECA:RCGRAHAM:RC
APPROVED BY ARA/ECA:RWZIMMERMANN
ARA:GLISTER (IN SUBSTANCE)
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PA

SUBJECT:PUBLICATION OF NEW BOOK ON ACHE INDIAN QUESTION

1. TEMPLE UNIVERSITY PRESS HAS PROVIDED COMPLIMENTARY COPIES TO THE DESK AND OTHER DEPARTMENT ADDRESSEES OF A NEW PUBLICATION, "GENOCIDE IN PARAGUAY." THE BOOK WAS EDITED BY TEMPLE UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR AND INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS BOARD MEMBER RICHARD ARENS. THE SUBJECT MATTER CONCERNS THE QUOTE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT'S SYSTEMATIC ATTEMPTS TO DESTROY THE PEACEFUL AND PRIMITIVE ACHE INDIANS UNQUOTE. ARENS CONTRIBUTED THE INTRODUCTION AND SUMMATION SECTIONS WITH THE REST OF THE BOOK CONSISTING OF ESSAYS BY MARK MUNZEL, ERIC R. WOLF, NORMAN LEWIS, FRANCIS R. GRANT, MONROE C. BEARDSLEY, CHAIM F. SHATAN, AND ELIE WIESEL.

2. CBS RADIO IN PHILADELPHIA HAS TAPED AN INTERVIEW WITH ARENS ON THE BOOK IN WHICH HE CLAIMED THAT PERSECUTION
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OF THE ACHE INDIANS IS STILL CONTINUING. CBS REPORTER, GESA SKLAROFF, ASKED THE DESK FOR A TAPED INTERVIEW PRESENTING THE U.S. POSITION ON THE ACHE INDIAN QUESTION.

NO INTERVIEW WAS GRANTED. INSTEAD CALLER WAS REFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN WHERE SUCH QUESTION COULD

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BE PUT DURING THE NOON BRIEFINGS. SHE WAS FURTHER REFERRED TO THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, FOR THE INVESTIGATION CARRIED OUT BY THAT BODY, AND TO THE PARAGUAYAN EMBASSY FOR ITS REBUTTAL.

3. ON BACKGROUND, THE DESK PARAPHRASED TO THE CBS INQUIRER THE FINAL PARAGRAPH OF THE UNCLASSIFIED (AND UNRELEASED) HUMAN RIGHTS PAPER ON PARAGUAY, WHICH REFERS TO THE PROVISIONAL FINDINGS OF THE ICHR AS NOTED IN THE 1975 REPORT OF THE COMMISSION. AS FURTHER BACKGROUND, MS. SKLAROFF WAS TOLD THAT PRIOR TO 1972 THERE WERE INSTANCES OF TREATMENT OF THE ACHE INDIANS AS DESCRIBED BY ARENS. SINCE 1972, BOWING TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONCERN REGARDING SUCH TREATMENT, THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT HAS ATTEMPTED TO CORRECT THE INJUSTICES.

4. THE DEPARTMENT ANTICIPATES A LETTER CAMPAIGN AS A RESULT OF THE PUBLICATION OF THIS BOOK. WE WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE AN UP TO DATE REPORT ON THE ACHE INDIAN SITUATION WHICH WOULD BE HELPFUL IN REPLYING TO THE ANTICIPATED INQUIRIES.

5. WE HAVE ORDERED A COPY OF ARENS' BOOK FOR THE EMBASSY, AND WILL FORWARD IT AS SOON AS RECEIVED. AMBASSADOR LANDAU HAS BEEN BRIEFED ON THIS MATTER.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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SAS ID: 3492428
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